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16 JULY 1969  
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ENEMY TAKE-OVER AT MUONG SOUI (LIMA SITE 108)  
PLAINE DES JARRES, NORTHERN LAOS  
19-31N 102-53E

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

MUONG SOUI WAS THE MAIN NEUTRALIST (PRO GOVERNMENT) BASE IN NORTHERN LAOS. THE KEY STAGING AREA WAS OVERRUN BY PATHET LAO AND NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE 1969.

2. LOCATION:

ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE PLAINE DES JARRES ON ROUTE 7/4 IN NORTHERN LAOS. MUONG SOUI IS APPROX. 55 NM SOUTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG.

3. BACKGROUND:

THE COMMUNISTS HAD MADE CLAIMS EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT THEY WOULD ATTACK MUONG SOUI IN MARCH OR APRIL, BUT GEN. VANG PAO'S PLAINE DES JARRES OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGAN IN LATE MARCH DISRUPTED THEIR PLANS AND FORCED A POSTPONEMENT OF THE ATTACK.

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM  
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4. MISSION READOUT:

[REDACTED] REVEALS A 5600' x 110' AIRSTRIP, ADJACENT  
STRONGPOINTS AND VILLAGE AREAS. NO AIRCRAFT ARE OBSERVED.

[REDACTED] RELAYED VIA COMPASS LINK SHOWS TWO RUSSIAN-  
BUILT PT-76 TANKS LOCATED WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF THE MAIN STRONGPOINT. FOUR  
TANKS REPORTEDLY WERE DESTROYED. TWO PROBABLE U.S. M-34 TRUCKS ARE NEARBY. (INSET 1)

STRIKE [REDACTED] RELAYED VIA COMPASS LINK SHOWS THE  
MAIN PORTION OF THE SUPPORT BUILDINGS AND CONSIDERABLE MATERIEL IN FLAMES. (INSET 2)

5. REMARKS:

ON 24 JUNE AN ESTIMATED TWO TO THREE COMMUNIST BATTALIONS SUPPORTED BY  
TANKS AND MORTARS ATTACKED MUONG SOUI (LIMA SITE 108). THE ENEMY ADVANCED AS FAR AS  
THE AIRFIELD, AND AT ONE POINT IN THE FIGHTING APPROXIMATELY 200 OF THE ENEMY  
OCCUPIED THE AIRSTRIP. BY MID AFTERNOON PRO-OVERNMENT TROOPS, AIDED BY TACTICAL  
AIR STRIKES, HAD RETAKEN THE FIELD AND HAD FORCED THE ENEMY TO PULL BACK TO THE  
SOUTHEAST. BY EARLY EVENING THE FIGHTING HAD DECREASED TO SNIPER HARASSMENT BY THE  
ENEMY AND SCATTERED SMALL ARMS CLASHES. DURING THE NIGHT OF THE 24TH OF JUNE FOUR  
AC-47 GUNSHIPS ASSISTED IN THE DEFENSE OF MUONG SOUI AS PRO GOVERNMENT FORCES  
REPULSED TWO MINOR ENEMY PROBES. THE FIGHTING REMAINED LIGHT ON THE 25TH AND 26TH  
WITH INTERMITTENT SHELLING AND SMALL ARMS CLASHES THROUGHOUT THE AREA. THE

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COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED ANOTHER TANK-SUPPORTED INFANTRY ATTACK IN THE EARLY MORNING OF THE 27TH. AGAIN THE FRIENDLY FORCES, SUPPORTED BY AIRSTRIKES, REPELLED THE ENEMY'S ADVANCE. WITH THE COMMUNISTS VIRTUALLY SURROUNDING MUONG SOUI AND ONLY ABOUT 500 PRO-GOVERNMENT DEFENDERS LEFT, A MEETING OF HIGH RANKING MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WAS HELD AND THE DECISION WAS MADE TO EVACUATE ALL PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES. THE EVACUATION REPORTEDLY BEGAN AT 1430 HOURS ON THE 27TH.

ON 1 JULY 1,500-2,000 PRO-GOVERNMENT TROOPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF GEN. VANG PAO BEGAN A COUNTEROFFENSIVE TO RETAKE MUONG SOUI. THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENCOUNTERED ONLY LIGHT RESISTANCE IN THEIR INITIAL CLEARING ACTION NEAR THE ROUTE 7/13 ROAD JUNCTION SOME 40 MILES WEST OF MUONG SOUI. THE COMMUNISTS APPEAR TO BE REGROUPING IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR DEFENSE AT MUONG SOUI WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO TROOPS ARE REPORTEDLY DUG IN. THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO RETAKE MUONG SOUI HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY AIRSTRIKES AS WEATHER PERMITS.

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MAP REFERENCE: AMS SERIES L7012, SHEET 5569 I

AMS SERIES JOG 1501, SHEET NE 48-1

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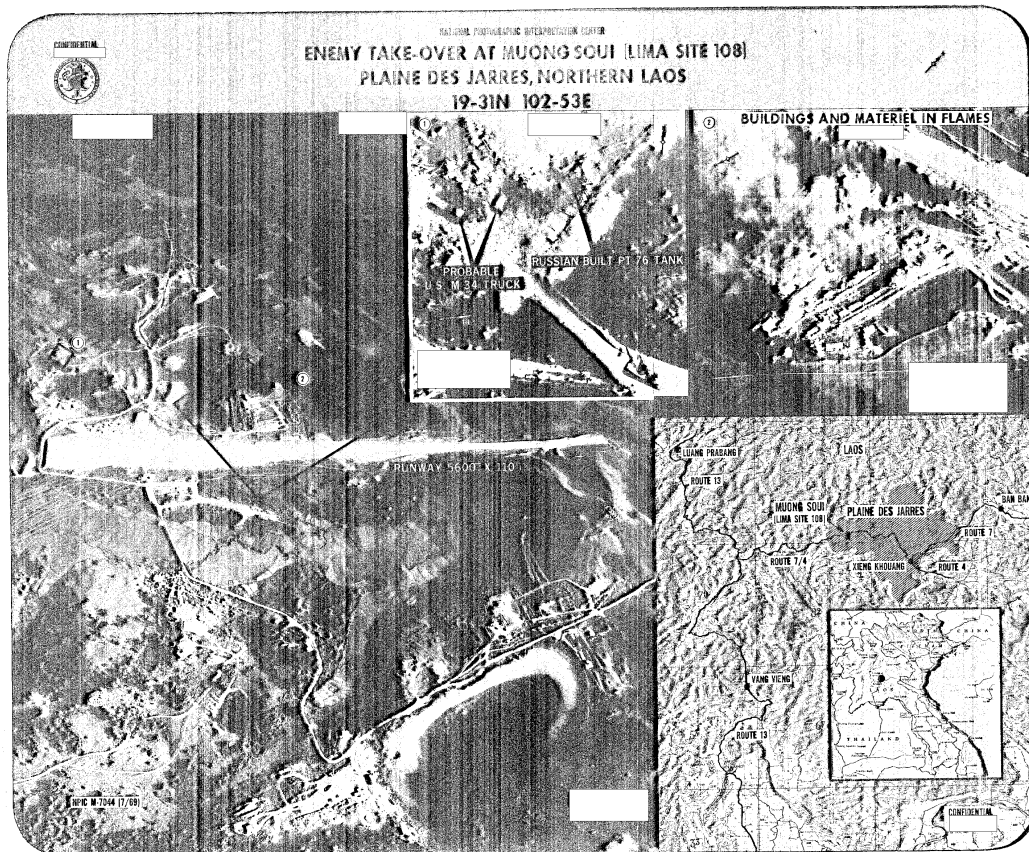
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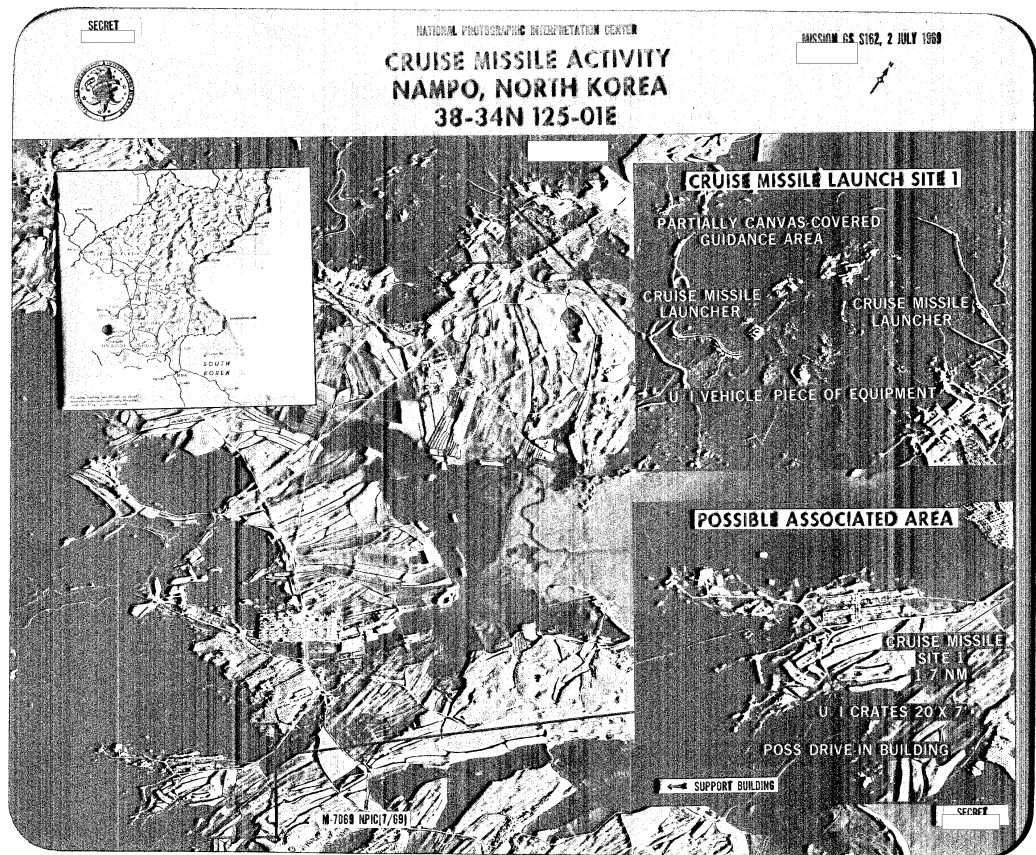
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